

his report was prepared by Mr. Danny Schuster, DCMDE, Acting Alerts Program Manager.

Alerts Monthly Status Report for December 1997

Phase I Maintenance Release:

A Phase I Maintenance Release update was functionally tested from 15-19 December 1997, in Columbus, OH. It was certified on Friday, 19 December, and re-released successfully to DCMC and customer locations on Monday, 22 December 1997 as Version 2.1e. Problems encountered after the fielding of the previous Version 2.1c Maintenance Release were corrected prior to the FT, and approximately 20 other problems, all minor in nature, were found and corrected during the FT. Thanks to the great work of 8 DCMDE FASST personnel and six Alerts specialists (5 from Western District CAOs), some of whom gave up vacation time, for an outstanding job in supporting and completing a comprehensive FT on very short notice and in a short period of time.

During testing, Mantech, the Alerts developer, stated that

Objectview, the Sterling Software product used to develop Alerts, is not compatible with NT for Workstations. While we encountered some problems with machines configured with NT at the FT, none were showstoppers, and none were encountered more than one time. As a result of the statement from Mantech, DSDC has been tasked with providing DCMC with a technical position paper on the issue, since if incompatibilities do exist they may adversely impact the several major client/server applications developed or in development which use Objectview.

Alerts In Process Review (IPR) and Design Review Meeting:

Our next meeting on Alerts will be a combined IPR and design review for Phase II to be held in the Fort Belvoir area during the week of 9 February.

Customer Deployment:

- o Marketing Strategy: Ms. Denise Spillman, the Alerts Program Manager for DCMDW, has provided a draft plan for a customer marketing strategy. That plan is currently under review by International, East and DCMC, with a final package to be completed by the February IPR. It is essentially following the three pronged effort set out in the November monthly status.

- oo Publish customer information on the DCMC Home Page.
- oo Conduct a customer marketing conference.
- oo Establish direct communications with customers.

- o CECOM Town Meeting: Ms. Claudia Emery, of the DCMDE Functional and Systems Support Team (FASST), briefed a CECOM town meeting on 12 December. DCMDE has received correspondence from Mr. Doug Skolski, the DCMC Liaison at CECOM, that Claudia's presentation was excellent and very well received by CECOM. As a result, CECOM is expected to significantly increase usage of Alerts in the near future.

- o DSCC Visit: I will be visiting DSCC a second time on 09 January to discuss their implementation of Alerts. At this time there is only one major obstacle to DSCC's implementation, and that is number of users and maintenance of their mail aliases in Alerts. DSCC has repeatedly stated they may have as many as 2,000 users of Alerts. It is not going to be logistically possible for DCMC to maintain such a huge volume of mail aliases in this application. The 2,000 new mail aliases would nearly double the number being maintained for all the customer locations already using Alerts. Our initial visit to DSCC resulted in agreement by both parties that we need to find alternatives to individual mail aliases for their users. That will be the primary focus of the 09 January meeting.

- o AMCOM Meeting: A meeting has been scheduled at AMCOM's request to discuss Alerts implementation and the quality of some of the DCMC CAO responses in Alerts concerning delinquencies. The meeting will be held on 22 January at DCMC HQ.

- o Other Customer Meetings: DPSC and NAVAIR are still in the process of arranging initial meetings, as are San Antonio ALC and Brooks AFB in the West. Much of the progress at these locations stalled temporarily due to unavailability of key managers during the Holiday season.

Phase II:

- o DSDC Proposed Project Development Schedule: After DSDC negotiations with Mantech, a proposed project development schedule for Phase II was submitted to DCMC. The impact of the proposed schedule on Alerts and the interface with the Shared Data Warehouse (SDW) development efforts for Versions 8 and 9, are currently under review by the Alerts Team. Critical target dates for Phase II will be published in the next monthly report.

- o Other Program Goals: DSDC has delivered the Phase II Risk Management, Software Configuration Management and Software Quality Assurance Plans. They are currently under technical review by DCMC, DCMDE, and DCMDW.

Other Information: Effective 1 January 1998, Mr. Mark Philip assumed responsibility as the DCMC Alerts Program Manager. He can be contacted at 703-767-6381 or DSN 427-6381 (voice), 703-767-6378 or DSN 427-6378 (fax), or mark_philip@hq.dla.mil .

V/R

Danny D. Schuster
Acting Alerts Program Manager
DSN 955-3358, dschuster@dcrb.dla.mil